

HOUSE BILL 3062
By Maggart

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
Chapter 24, relative to treatment for drug or
alcohol abuse.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-24-104, is amended by adding
the following language as a new subsection (f):

(f)

(1) The department is authorized to plan, establish, and administer a pilot
project to develop a system of providing loans to persons seeking treatment for
alcohol or drug abuse who do not qualify as indigent and who cannot afford
treatment. Indigency shall be determined by the department. The department
may contract with service providers or community based agencies in order to
carry out the provisions of this subsection

(A) The pilot project shall be administered in two (2) urban
counties, two (2) suburban counties, and two (2) rural counties. The
department shall select the participating counties so that the three (3)
grand divisions are equally represented and the populations of the
counties selected collectively reflect the ethnic diversity of the state.

(B) In its administration of the pilot project, including defining and
selecting qualified persons for the pilot project and developing standards
for measuring the effectiveness of the program, the department shall seek
input from the Tennessee Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Services and the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations.

(C) Persons selected to participate in the pilot project shall receive treatment from a treatment resource in this state. The treatment resource shall be reimbursed by the state for the costs of treatment that cannot be paid by the recipient of the loan. A person receiving treatment through the pilot project shall be obligated to repay the state for the funds paid to the treatment resource within a period of time to be determined by the department, provided that such period shall be no less than five (5) years. The first installment payment shall be due one (1) year and one (1) day from the date of such person's discharge from the treatment resource. Interest on the funds paid to the treatment resource shall be applied from the date that the first installment payment is due and shall be equal to the sum of the ninety-one (91) day T-bill rate and two and three-tenths percent (2.3%). Interest applied shall at no time exceed eight and one quarter percent (8.25%).

(D) The department shall report to the governor and the general assembly annually prior to February 15 concerning implementation of the program and the findings and recommendations of the department regarding the effectiveness of the program.

(E) The department is authorized to seek supplementary funding or resources from public and private funding sources for substance abuse prevention and treatment programs.

(2) Implementation of the provisions of this subsection shall be limited to the level of funding provided for such purpose within the general appropriations act and any supplementary funding or resources obtained by the department pursuant to subdivision (E).

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006 the public welfare requiring it.